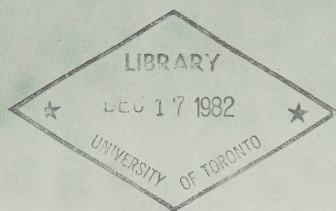


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**The Ontario
Provincial Parks
Council**

**Fifth
Annual
Report**

**Response by
The Honourable
James A.C. Auld
Minister of
Natural Resources**

**Algonquin
Provincial
Park
First
Five-Year
Review**

1979

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Aerial View
Crow River

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Chairman's Letter to the Minister

December 7, 1979

The Honourable James C. Auld,
Minister of Natural Resources,
Queen's Park, Whitney Block,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Auld:

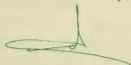
Please find attached the recommendations of your Parks Council resulting from the First Five-Year Review of the Algonquin Park Master Plan.

I think the public involvement exercise was a successful one and hopefully the park will benefit from this collective concern.

I would like to personally commend your staff, particularly John Travers and John Simpson in the Algonquin Region, who proved to be invaluable in the review. In Toronto, Bill Sargent was unstinting in his assistance. Also Joe Bird, General Manager, Algonquin Forestry Authority, was of great help as well.

We are at your service if we can assist in any way from this point on. Your Parks Council looks forward to advising you on park related matters in 1980.

Yours sincerely,



George B. Priddle,
Chairman.

Minister's Letter to the Chairman

December 31, 1979

Dr. George Priddle
Chairman
Provincial Parks Council
Room 214
Environmental Studies Building
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario

Dear Dr. Priddle:

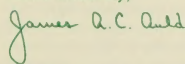
Thank you for your letter of December 7, 1979 and the Parks Council's recommendations related to the Algonquin Park Master Plan First Five-Year Review. The Council is to be commended for completing the review on schedule.

Following consideration of the Council's recommendations, I intend to respond to them as soon as possible.

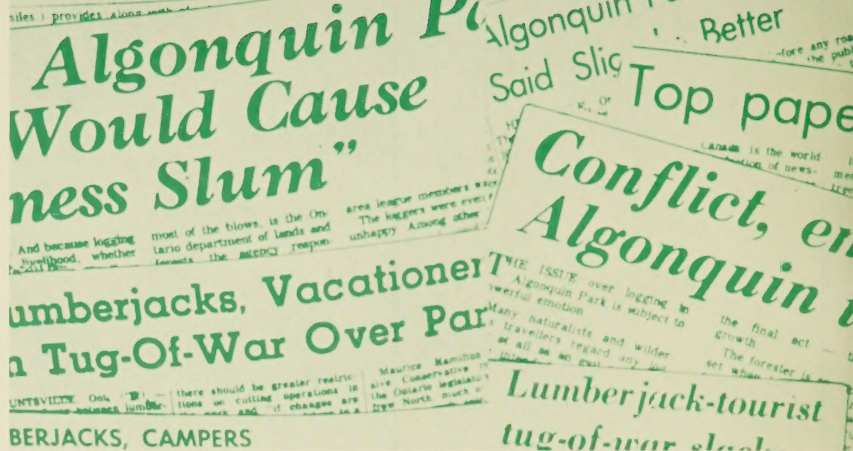
Again, I want to thank you and the members of the Parks Council for the effective manner in which the master plan review was carried out.

I look forward to receiving the Council's advice on provincial park matters in the future.

Yours sincerely,



James A.C. Auld
Minister



Public Involvement
1968

Introduction

Development of the 1974 Master Plan

Work began on an official master plan for Algonquin Park in the fall of 1966. Prior to this the park had operated under a series of internal Department of Lands and Forests management and development plans. The Provisional Master Plan was released on November 4, 1968, and public hearings were held in Pembroke, Huntsville, and Toronto during November, 1968. A wide variety of private and group submissions were received indicating a great interest in the plan.

On December 10, 1968, the Algonquin Park Task Force was appointed to provide recommendations for immediate operating decisions, to prepare a revised provisional master plan for the period January 1, 1970 to December 1, 1974 and to undertake background studies that would lead to the production of a final master plan by January 1, 1975. Their report "Interim Guidelines for Planning and Management" was released in December, 1970.

In August, 1969, the government appointed the Algonquin Park Advisory Committee, which consisted of representatives of diverse interest groups under the chairmanship of the Honourable Leslie. M. Frost. The Committee was given a mandate to advise the Department of Lands and Forests on management policies for the park. This Committee completed its term in September, 1971. It was reconstituted the following June (1972) for an additional year and released the "Algonquin Park Advisory Committee Report: Government Policy" in July of 1973. This contained thirty-six specific recommendations concerning the management of the park. These recommendations and information studies provided much of the background and direction for the approved Algonquin Provincial Park Master Plan which was released in 1974.

The Purpose of a Master Plan

"A master plan is a document which establishes detailed policy guidelines for a provincial park or recreation area for protection, development and management."

These plans are written for a 20-year period. The Algonquin Provincial Park Master Plan sets out policy guidelines for the period from 1974 to 1994.

The Purpose of a Five-Year Review

A master plan undergoes review once every five years during its 20-year period. The first review for the Algonquin Park Master Plan was initiated in 1979.



Public Meeting
Toronto

The master plan approved in 1974 is still the government policy directing development and management in the park. This five-year review does not question the basic philosophy established in the master plan, but does identify problems associated with implementation of the plan, conflicts and issues arising as a result of plan implementation, and new considerations on the basis of revised or updated background information.

Provincial Parks Council

The Parks Council is an appointed body of citizens who advise the Minister of Natural Resources on matters related to all provincial parks in Ontario. The Council was established in 1974 when the master plan for Algonquin Park was tabled in the Legislature.

One of the specific tasks given the Council was to "oversee the implementation of the Algonquin Master Plan." As a result, the Council has advised the Minister on matters related to Algonquin Park for the last five years.

Public Participation Programme

As part of the five-year review, a public participation programme was organized and conducted by the Parks Council in 1979. The programme consisted of seven meetings held at the following centres:

Place	Date	Attendance
Toronto	March 9, 1979	146
Bancroft	April 26, 1979	204
Pembroke	April 27, 1979	243
Ottawa	June 22, 1979	86
South River	August 16, 1979	84
Huntsville	August 17, 1979	108
Algonquin Park	August 18, 1979	252
	Total	1,123

The location of meetings at these centres was publicized by local media well in advance of meeting dates. The meetings followed a two-part format. During the afternoon, an open house was held where interested members of the public were welcome to come to view displays of background information. Members of the Parks Council and Ministry of Natural Resources staff were on hand to answer questions. In the evening of the same day, a public meeting was held by the Parks Council to hear briefs and comments presented by the public. A total of 167 formal briefs were received as well as notes made of many verbal comments at the meetings.

The Council has carefully reviewed all input received from the public since its inception. The recommendations in this document have been shaped to a considerable extent by the input of a concerned public.

Some of the more technical management issues were brought to the attention of the Parks Council by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Thirty-five topics were discussed and 102 recommendations made. In most cases, recommendations were unanimous, but when they were not, a vote was duly recorded immediately following the recommendation.

1

Acid Rain

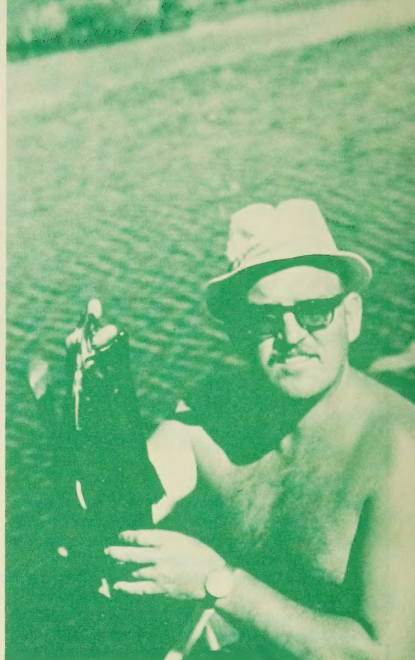
Background and Discussion

Acid rain and its effects on the environment have only come to the public's attention quite recently. Acids usually originate from highly concentrated industrialized areas burning fossil fuel for electricity, smelting of ores and other uses. Emissions from the stacks in industrialized areas occur as sulphur and nitrogen oxides. These become oxidized and form dehydrates of sulphuric and nitric acids which in turn mix with water in the atmosphere and finally fall to earth as acid rain.

The Parks Council has had an opportunity to study material and to hear from experts on the problem of acid rain, particularly as it affects Algonquin Park and vicinity. It is believed by some experts that there is a real possibility that within the next decade or so many lakes in Algonquin will lose their ability to support trout and other fish populations. The impact on vegetation could also be dramatic and the possible resulting economic loss and social impact presents a frightening prospect to Algonquin and neighbouring communities. The Parks Council is concerned and urges the Minister to do everything possible to address these critical matters.

The Parks Council has also recommended that the Ministry give careful consideration to data collection and monitoring of acid rain in Algonquin Park. Since Algonquin is a protected environment that has served as an outdoor laboratory for many years, there exists a relatively good data base. The Ministry should review its needs in terms of staff and available instrumentation to monitor acid rain in Algonquin Park.

Although liming of lakes does not solve the problem of acid rain at the source, it has been used effectively in Sweden to increase the buffering capacity of lakes to withstand acid rain. Consideration should be given to the possible future need for this practice in Algonquin Park.



Fishing Threatened
by Acid Rain

Recommendations

1 The Parks Council strongly urges the Minister of Natural Resources and his Cabinet colleagues to co-operate in the formalization of an international agreement between the American and Canadian governments and the affected states and provinces to solve this serious problem.

2 Allowable emission standards should be reconsidered in light of the findings of recent studies.

3 Environmental analysis and pilot projects of liming should be undertaken in anticipation of the need to consider potential buffering agents.

4 Careful monitoring and data collection of acid rain should take place in Algonquin Park.

5 A monitoring station should be established in a highly visible place in Algonquin to allow for public information and education on the subject of acid rain.

Minister's Response

1 *I agree. My Cabinet colleagues are working closely with Federal Cabinet members to arrive at a strategy and solution to this very serious province-wide, and indeed, international problem.*

2 *I have referred this recommendation to the Minister of the Environment. The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for setting allowable emission standards.*

3 *Joint pilot projects between my Ministry and the Ministry of the Environment are currently underway. Until we have a better understanding of the effectiveness of liming and its long range impact on aquatic ecosystems, my Ministry will not carry out liming projects within the park.*

4 *A joint monitoring and data collection programme has been initiated in Algonquin between my Ministry and the Ministry of the Environment. The Research Unit based at the Harkness Fish Laboratory on Opeongo Lake is also collecting data on acid rain and how it is affecting fish populations in the park. Once the initial phase of the monitoring and data collection is completed, I intend to announce the current status of the effects of acid rain on Algonquin Park.*

5 *Any additional monitoring stations within the park will be located in consultation with the Ministry of the Environment. It is important to locate these stations in areas most beneficial to the monitoring programme. Through interpretive programmes and other media, Ministry staff have kept and will continue to keep the public informed on the methods of data collection, findings and ways to combat this serious problem.*

2 Zoning

Background and Discussion

The master plan states: "zoning provides a means of management, administrative and development control that will establish an appropriate balance of acceptable uses and developments which are compatible with the purpose of the park. Only through zoning is there assurance that long range programmes can be designed to meet objectives" (Algonquin Provincial Park Master Plan p. 11). The public has questioned the adequacy of the wilderness zoning in the park. North of Highway 60, the wilderness zone contains three non-conforming uses: the Wildlife Research Station at Sasajewun Lake, Camp Arowhon and Arowhon Pines Lodge.

The Parks Council is of the opinion that the wilderness zone north of Highway 60 is too small and should be substantially increased to conform more closely to interior park users' concepts of where in fact the wilderness is in Algonquin Park. A number of groups in the past have also recommended an increase in size of the wilderness zone.

Recommendation

1 The wilderness zone north of Highway 60 should be significantly increased to include the drainage areas of the Nipissing and Tim Rivers. Consideration should be given to increasing the size of the wilderness zones to include additional acreage in the following Townships: McCraney, Hunter, Finlayson, Peck, Bower, Dickson, Lawrence and Nightingale, (see Figure 1).

2 With respect to the non-conforming uses, it is recommended that zone boundaries be changed so the established facilities such as Arowhon and the Wildlife Research Station fall within the development zone.

3 The proposal for a Main Forest Access Road System should be adjusted to accommodate an increased wilderness zone (see Section 4).



Minister's Response

1 I will take this recommendation into consideration when I review the Forest Management Plan.

2 The existing wilderness zone boundaries will be modified slightly to exclude existing non-conforming uses.

3 Pending an examination of the Forest Management Plan, approval of the Main Forest Access Road System will be deferred.

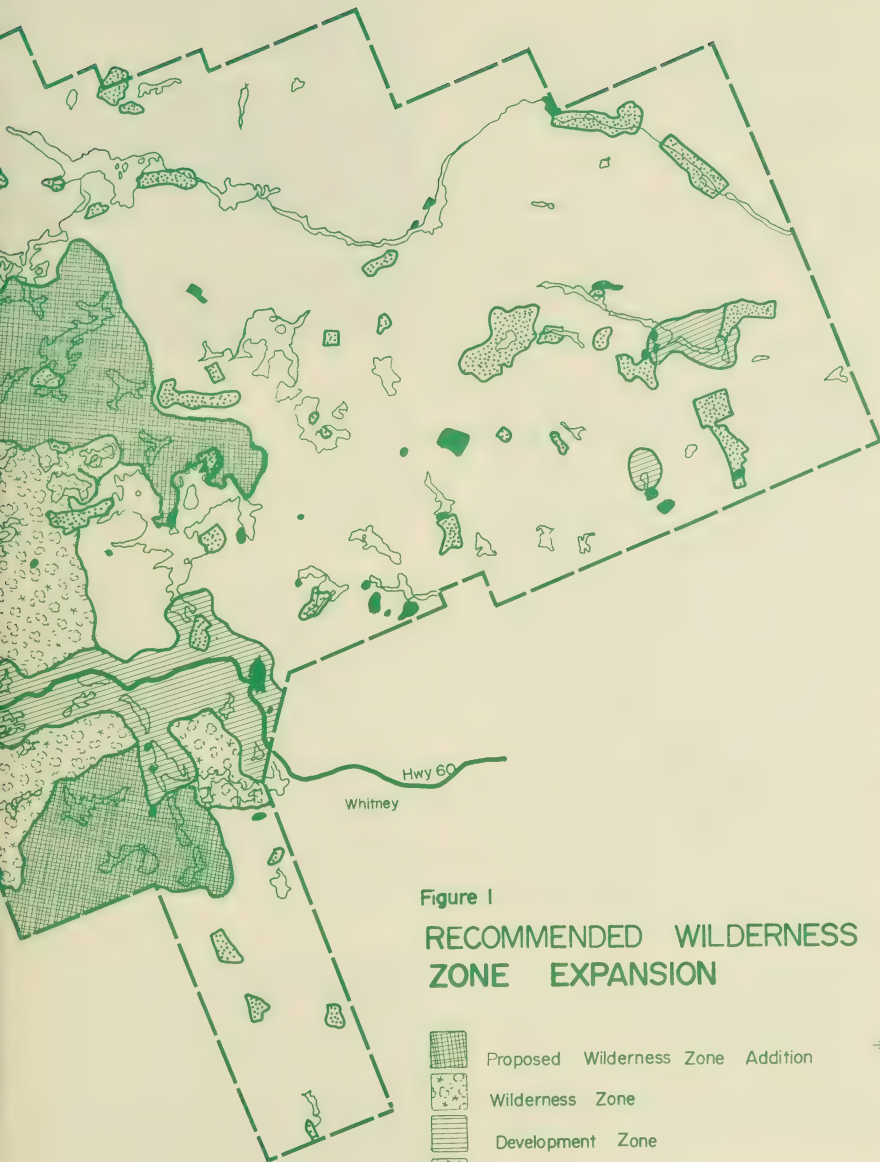


Figure 1

RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS ZONE EXPANSION

-  Proposed Wilderness Zone Addition
-  Wilderness Zone
-  Development Zone
-  Nature Reserve Zone
-  Recreation / Utilization Zone
-  Historical Zone



3 Historical Buildings and Sites

Background and Discussion

The master plan provides for the protection of 86 areas of historical importance, totaling some 2,023 ha. The plan anticipated that "continuing field work, study and analysis will complete an historical zone system in two or three years" (p. 12). The Parks Council is concerned that, despite the recommendations of both the master plan and subsequent studies, little has been done to establish an historical zone system in the park or to develop management policies governing historical sites. The intent of the master plan to preserve sites of historical significance has on several occasions been ignored. Regrettably, the Ministry of Natural Resources has not taken the opportunity to act upon the recommendations and information provided by historical planners. During the summer of 1978, the Turtle Club Lodge, a unique feature of provincial historical and architectural significance was allowed to be dismantled by a private operator. The lodge had been designated an historical zone in the master plan. Nominigan Lodge, another structure of historical architectural significance and recommended for historical zone designation in 1977, has also been dismantled and removed from the park. Financial restrictions and management problems apparently conditioned the fate of these buildings.

Recommendation

1 The historical zone system and the management guidelines for the zones should be completed immediately.

2 The historical and archaeological resources of the park should be given a higher priority in funding.



Kish Kaduk
Lodge

Minister's Response

1 *The establishment of historical zones and their management guidelines are being currently worked on by members of my staff. This project will be completed by March 31, 1981.*

2 *I agree in principle with your recommendation. My staff will establish a priority list of structures for which continued preservation is practical and where available funds will be spent. All other historical resources will be allowed to grow old and disappear gracefully. Their preservation is not practical and their possible restoration is not justifiable given problems of maintaining them and the small numbers of people who would actually see them.*

3 Historical planning expertise and funding should be re-established within the Ministry of Natural Resources.

4 Because of financial costs, consideration should be given to expanding the museum facility under the guidance of a full-time professional curator rather than developing the Mowat Complex as the major interpretive centre in the park.

3 *Following Cabinet approval of a heritage appreciation objective for the provincial parks system and the establishment of an Historical Classification type park covered under the Provincial Parks Policy, historical resource expertise has been re-established in the Ministry.*

4 *In recognition of the need Council has identified, to give greater emphasis to historical interpretation, my staff will continue to maintain and improve the Pioneer Logging Exhibit, historical conducted walks, illustrated talks on park history and the publication "A Pictorial History of Algonquin Provincial Park". My staff will continue to upgrade and expand our archival and pictorial resources and in the expanded museum at km 20 greater emphasis will be placed on man's role in shaping the present day Algonquin. The possibility of producing a guide to the historical resources of the park interior is also being investigated. (See Recommendation 12-4).*

4

Logging and The Algonquin Forestry Authority

Background and Discussion

The Algonquin Forestry Authority, following a recommendation of the original Advisory Committee, was proposed in the master plan. In November 1974, a Bill was passed in the Legislature which established the Authority. It was to function as a Crown Corporation, harvesting forest products and supplying them to the manufacturing facilities dependent upon supplies from the park. The Authority was to carry out all road construction, silvicultural activities and cutting activities prescribed by the Ministry. Special harvesting and road construction regulations have been developed to protect park values and recreational opportunities. Some people will always be opposed to logging in Algonquin. Some are simply opposed to the obvious existence of logging: noise, roads and trucks.

Also, concern is expressed over the evolution of the Main Forest Access Road System and its implications for recreational users and the natural well-being of the park.

Policies defined in the master plan constitute an attempt to allow logging to continue in a manner that will not interfere with recreational enjoyment of the park. The Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies identify management guidelines for recreation/utilization zones within Natural Environment classed parks.

The Parks Council had an opportunity to discuss the proposed Main Forest Access Road System with staff of both the Algonquin Forestry Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources.



Selective
Cutting

Recommendation

1 Logging should be allowed to continue, but recreation should clearly be recognized as taking precedence.

2 Licence rights lost to the Algonquin Forestry Authority by an increase in the wilderness zone should be replaced by rights to Crown land outside of the park.

Minister's Response

1 *The goals and objectives of the 1974 master plan clearly establish that Algonquin is a provincial park, part of a system of provincial parks, and that its emphasis is on the provision of quality recreational experiences, a variety of extensive recreational activities, scientific research and education, maintenance of special ecosystems and natural environments, maintaining the recreational environment, and that it shall provide a specific level of forest products to sustain dependent industries at current levels of utilization. Therefore, the production of forest products is clearly defined as being appropriate within Algonquin Park. However, forest management must occur in a manner which recognizes and accepts the importance of other park values.*

2 *The forest lands outside Algonquin Park are already fully utilized and contribute to the social and economic well-being of the region . Therefore, it would not be feasible or desirable to expand the Authority's operation outside of the park. Also, expansion of the Algonquin Forestry Authority operations outside the park might detract from the concentration of effort within the park which has resulted in significant improvements in forest management and the reduction of resource utilization and recreation activity conflicts.*

3 The Algonquin Forestry Authority Forest Management Plan should include any proposal for a Main Forest Access Road System.

4 The Algonquin Forestry Authority Forest Management Plan should be reviewed by the public.

5 The proposed Main Forest Access Road System should undergo an environmental impact analysis.

6 Further implementation of a Main Forest Access Road System should not take place until a careful assessment is made of:

a Noise: What are the implications to the canoe route network? Will truck traffic be heard on the canoe routes? How much audible traffic is likely to be heard?

b Through Traffic: The road system would make possible east-west and north-south crossings of the park. Will this not be difficult to prevent? How much more timber haulage will there be in the park if the Authority can distribute from the landing, different products to different mills?

c Wildlife: Could the sanctuary quality of the park suffer irreparable damage with the impact of the cross-hauling?

7 The Main Forest Access Road System should not include a road between the Tim and Nipissing Rivers. This would severely limit future expansion of the wilderness zone.

8 The Main Forest Access Road System should not have any new permanent road crossings over the Nipissing and Crow Rivers. If crossings are absolutely necessary, they should be temporary.

9 The Parks Council endorses the easterly shift of the road immediately abutting the eastern shore of Lake Opeongo particularly along Annie Bay.

3 *The alignment of the Main Forest Access Road System will be dealt with in the Forest Management Plan. This road system will attempt to resolve problems associated with many existing roads that are not optimally located for recreational, timber management, harvesting or forest product distribution purposes.*

4 *Because the Forest Management Plan is such a major element in the implementation of the Algonquin Park Master Plan, I have asked the Algonquin Forestry Authority to carry out a review process providing both the public and the Provincial Parks Council the opportunity to comment on the proposed Forest Management Plan prior to submission for my approval. Details of the public review process will be announced.*

5 *Since the Main Forest Access Road System is a component of the master plan which was approved prior to The Environmental Assessment Act, the project is exempt from the requirements of the Act. Ministry Staff have been working closely with the Algonquin Forestry Authority on the alignment and design of the road system. The discussions have been guided by the design criteria in the master plan which stress an optimum location for recreational, timber management, harvesting and forest product distribution purposes.*

6 *The approval of the Main Forest Access Road System will be contingent on ensuring that noise levels and traffic patterns do not adversely affect wildlife and recreational values. Existing noise level standards stated in the Algonquin Park Master Plan will be followed. Close attention has been given in the design of the Main Road System to minimize the noise effect on canoe routes.*

7 *This road, which involves no canoe route crossings, has been proposed to replace an existing road which crosses a number of canoe routes.*

8 *To attain the goals and objectives stated in the master plan, roads will be aligned to minimize water crossings. In addition, the possibility of temporary crossings will be studied.*

9 *The realignment of this proposed road is currently in progress and the Council's support in this matter is appreciated.*

10 A Main Forest Access Road is shown extending north of Highway 60 to the east of Kearney Campground up past Titmouse Lake. This should not be part of the Main Forest Access Road System because of its audio and visual impact. There would seem to be little rationale for it since it does not link any other segments of the system together.

11 Some of the proposed Main Forest Access Roads on the east side coincide with current access roads. Consideration should be given to the implications should these roads become main roads as it was proposed that some of them be closed.

12 The Parks Council agrees with the Ministry of Natural Resources that "the annual allowable cut will be based on an inventory of growth data and a management plan. This will start in the spring of 1981."

13 The Parks Council agrees that "no timber may be cut in the park unless it is marked or otherwise designated or prescribed by an officer of the Ministry."

14 The Parks Council agrees that the policy on marking should read:
"Except for recreational and aesthetic purposes no marking will be done within 100 feet of any body of water, public road and railway right-of-way, within 200 feet of portages or within 50 feet of the Algonquin Park Boundary."

15 The Parks Council agrees that: "At the Superintendent's discretion, roads which have been closed for two years after harvest may be reopened to allow access to previously cut areas for silvicultural treatment."

10 *This matter will be reviewed in the context of the Forest Management Plan and the overall Main Forest Access Road System. However, preliminary indications are that only periodic use of this road will be required. The planting and maintenance of a vegetation screen to lessen visual impact of the road entrance to visitors travelling along Highway 60 will continue.*

11 *After review, it is our intention to keep the Brent Road open to allow access as long as people reside at Brent. This decision is based on the fact that passenger train service to this centre has been discontinued.*

12 *The annual allowable cut will be in accordance with the approved Forest Management Plan for the park. As I stated in an earlier response, both the Council and the public will be given the opportunity to review and comment on this plan before it is presented to me for approval.*

13 *I appreciate the Council's support to slightly modify the original direction stated in the master plan: "no timber may be cut in the park unless it is marked or otherwise designated by an officer of the Ministry." Council's recommendation reflects the present practice.*

14 *A typographical error existed in the master plan. The directive read, "... or within 500 feet of the Algonquin Park Boundary," instead of the proper measurement of 50 feet as stated in the Parks Council's recommendation.*

15 *The original directive in the master plan stated that: "Roads other than those forming part of the Main Forest Access Road System should be closed within two years following harvest." My staff felt that this two-year limit was not always realistic due to the additional silvicultural treatments needed after two years in some harvested areas and the backlog of treatments. The new directive as stated in the Parks Council's recommendation will allow for the needed management flexibility.*



Marking
Timber

16 The Parks Council agrees that: "All merchantable trees with root systems too large for a small sized bulldozer to root out easily may be bulldozed during right-of-way construction. However, merchantable trees must be manufactured into logs and skidded from the area within a time limit set by the Park Superintendent."

17 The Parks Council agrees that "crossing rehabilitation must be completed by the Thursday prior to Victoria Day Weekend."

16 *The original directive in the master plan stated that: "All merchantable timber must be cut and salvaged from rights-of-way prior to bulldozing." This is viewed by my staff as impractical since large stumps are impossible to root out with a small bulldozer. Often it means bringing in a large machine thus increasing the impact and cost. The suggested change in the directive as recommended by the Parks Council is much more practical.*

17 *Members of my staff feel that the deadline of April 20th to rehabilitate crossings is too early. Many times rehabilitation is hampered by spring breakup conditions. I feel that the deadline extended to the Thursday prior to the Victoria Day Weekend will not detract from recreational values and therefore accept the Parks Council's recommendation.*



Hardwood Forest
Regeneration

5 Weldwood Road Policy

Background and Discussion

It was suggested in the master plan that the Weldwood Road should be closed. However, the Weldwood Road has been designated as part of the proposed Main Forest Access Road System and thus will be subject to timber hauling all year-round.

Recommendation

1 The Parks Council agrees that in the interest of safety, both recreation and timber traffic should be kept separate. Therefore, both roads in question should be kept open.

Minister's Response

1 *I agree with this recommendation and commend the Parks Council for their concern for accident prevention.*



Motorboats

Background and Discussion

Prior to 1974, Regulations under The Provincial Parks Act permitted the use of power boats with motors in excess of 10 horsepower (h.p.) on 29 lakes in Algonquin Park. All other lakes and waters were restricted to boats with motors of less than 10 h.p. The 1974 master plan stated that: "beginning in 1975 the use of motorboats will be phased out except on Opeongo Lake and 26 leasehold lakes." In 1974, changes in the Regulations were made to meet the conditions of the master plan. The new regulations allowed boats with motors of 10 h.p. or less on 11 lakes and unlimited horsepower on 16 lakes for a total of 27 lakes.

All other lakes and waters in Algonquin Park were to be closed to motorized boats. However, public opposition to the policy resulted in delayed implementation and the matter was referred to the Provincial Parks Council for study. In 1977, the Parks Council recommended that motorboats be banned except on the 27 lakes set out in the Regulations and on 7 additional lakes with the provision that motorboats be banned on the additional 7 lakes during July and August.

In December of 1977, the government accepted the recommendations with the addition of 5 other lakes to facilitate travel to and between the lakes recommended by the Parks Council.

Little evidence exists to suggest that there is a conflict between canoeists and outboard motorboats in the recreation/utilization zones in the spring and fall. If there is an ecological problem related to motorboats; for example, to fish population or bird nestings, such problem areas should be identified and motorboats restricted from those lakes. In recreation/utilization zones, the basic managerial objective is to prevent conflict between different park users.

For example, in an attempt to eliminate conflict between the paddling public and logging operations, timber harvesting is not allowed near waterways or portages. Given this approach to canoeists and loggers, it is difficult to restrict motorboats unless it can be demonstrated that canoeists are bothered by them. Many members of the public expressed opposition to motorboats in the park on philosophical grounds. Existing evidence suggests that the current problem between canoeists and other recreationists and motorboaters occurs on the lakes where very large motors are used. This conflict is increased when large motorboats are used to pull water-skiers.



Motorboats Permitted
on Some Lakes

Recommendation

1 Motorboats not exceeding 6 horsepower should be allowed in the recreation/utilization zones in the spring and fall. This recommendation is contingent on the wilderness zone being substantially increased (see Section 2).

2 On leasehold lakes, most of which are in the development zone, motorboats should be restricted to 10 horsepower.

3 Where it can be demonstrated that motors are a management problem on a particular lake, they should be banned on that lake at the discretion of the Park Superintendent.

In favour - 8
Opposed - 2

4 Where there is a need for outfitters or lodges to have motors greater than 10 horsepower, they should have to receive special dispensation from the Park Superintendent. If such dispensation is granted, the motors must be kept at low speeds and not used for water-skiing.

Minister's Response

1 *For the 1980 operating season, the present motorboat policy will remain in effect.*

2 *I agree with this recommendation. However, it will be phased in over a two-year period to allow for cottager adjustment.*

3 *I agree in principle with this recommendation. However, the closing of any lake will be only carried out based on well documented justification.*

4 *I agree in principle. However, requiring higher horsepower motorboats to be operated at lower speeds negates the need for higher horsepower to shorten travel time. Based on the Parks Council's recommendation, water-skiing and other related activities such as motorized surfboarding will not be permitted in the park.*

7

Mechanical Devices for Portage Aids - "Wheels"

Background and Discussion

In the master plan it is stated that: "The overland transportation of any watercraft, camping gear or other supplies and equipment by mechanical means, including the use of wheels, rollers or other devices is not desirable. These devices frequently break down and are abandoned. They create ruts in wet areas on portages, encourage visitors to bring greater volumes of supplies, thus increasing litter and represent an unnecessary tie with civilization."

Such devices were to be phased out starting in 1975, but as yet this has not been implemented. Instead, the use of these portage aids has been monitored by Ministry personnel since the release of the master plan. Ministry staff feel it is no longer a problem because of the can and bottle ban policy, the use of wood chips on portages to decrease erosion and compaction problems and the infrequent abandonment of portage aids.

This policy should also be reconsidered in light of the many long portages and the interior users who are not physically capable of making some portages without the use of a portage aid.



Portage
Aid

The Parks Council is of the opinion that it would be difficult to restrict these devices in a zone that allows logging roads and bulldozers unless it could be demonstrated that they do indeed cause a conflict with other users or create damage to the portages and landings. It was felt that to prevent the problem of these items being left derelict in the park, an inspection by Ministry staff should be made at the time of the permit issuance.

Recommendation

1 Portage aids should be allowed when and where outboard motors are allowed, but certainly not in wilderness and nature reserve zones.

2 If a portage aid is used by a particular party, it should be duly noted on their Interior Permit and some identifiable attachment should be made to the device indicating that it has been inspected and is deemed to be mechanically sound.

3 If the Park Superintendent feels that a particular portage is being impacted too heavily, it would be at his discretion to prevent further portage aid use.

Minister's Response

1 *I find it hard to agree with Parks Council's justification to allow mechanical devices based on the last paragraph in the "Background and Discussion" section. I cannot see the justification of allowing further expansion of non-conforming uses just because there already is one. I feel the justification stated in the second last paragraph is more appropriate.*

I cannot agree to the Parks Council's recommendation because it would be hard to enforce. For example, a person setting out on a canoe trip in the recreation/utilization zone and using wheels could end up travelling through wilderness or nature reserve zones. What would the person do with the wheels in such a case? Also, I believe that without mechanical assistance some interior users are physically unable to carry canoes or boats over portages. Mechanical devices for portage aids will be allowed throughout the park's interior.

2 *This recommendation is not accepted. At this time, there is not a significant problem to warrant the implementation of the Parks Council's recommendation. However, my staff will continue to monitor this use and take appropriate action when it is deemed necessary.*

3 *This recommendation is accepted.*

Snowmobiles Along the Hydro Line Right-of-Way

Background and Discussion

The master plan states: "The public use of snowmobiles is prohibited except along the hydro line right-of-way service road in Clyde Township. This policy exception will be subject to further examination during the period of master plan review."

The quality of experience this particular snowmobile link provides is being questioned by the Ministry especially in view of the high quality trail system circling south of the park's boundary. The safety factor is also a concern of the Ministry since the trail follows the hydro line right-of-way service road. The road is part of the proposed Main Forest Access Road System used by the Algonquin Forestry Authority and, as such, is used extensively throughout the winter for timber hauling. It is the policy of the Ministry not to approve winter trails using travelled roads for any great distances. However, in December of 1977, the Parks Council reviewed the snowmobile issue and recommended that "the snowmobile route along the hydro line right-of-way in Clyde Township be allowed to continue subject to review in 1979."

Recommendation

1 Council is still of the opinion that snowmobiles should be allowed to continue to use the hydro line in Clyde Township.

In favour - 6
Opposed - 3

2 Snowmobiles must not be allowed elsewhere in the park.

3 Snowmobiles must be prevented from entering the deer yard in the south end of Bruton Township.



Snowmobiling

Minister's Response

1 *I accept the Parks Council's recommendation since it does provide a short link from the Whitney area to Haliburton.*

2 *Recreational use of snowmobiles in Algonquin Park will be permitted only along the hydro line right-of-way in Clyde Township except in a small area around Four Corner Lake which provides an important link to the regional snowmobile trunk trail system.*

3 *My staff have investigated the possibility of realigning the snowmobile trail outside the park boundary and find it is not feasible at the present time.*

Lake of Two Rivers Airfield

Background and Discussion

The Lake of Two Rivers Airfield has not been open or maintained for several years. This airfield has never been a licensed public airport since it was not designated, or ever intended for public use. Rather, it was developed as a management aid for the park, a function rendered unnecessary by Highway 60 which provides the required access to that portion of the park. Other management needs are well provided for by float-equipped planes.

The Algonquin Provincial Park Master Plan identifies the park's role as providing wilderness recreation experiences. Therefore, forms of motorized or mechanical transportation are discouraged in all areas, except along Highway 60. However, even the recreation facilities along Highway 60 try to emphasize the natural environment philosophy and dissociate the recreating public from the evidence of development. In keeping with that general philosophy, the master plan emphasized that the Lake of Two Rivers Airfield was not to become a public airport. Also, it was not to cater to fly-in camping or day-use.

Since the release of the master plan in 1974, a few people have questioned this existing policy and wish to have the airfield opened for fly-in camping.

Recommendation

- 1 The Lake of Two Rivers Airfield should be kept closed.



Lake of Two Rivers
Airfield

Minister's Response

- 1 *Agreed.*

Enforcement of Regulations

Background and Discussion

A good deal of confusion has emerged over the lack of implementation of a few policies in the master plan. Most of these policies involved implementation dates. Many were never implemented (mechanical portage aids), were implemented a year or two after the prescribed date (can and bottle ban), or were implemented in a revised form. Many park users were never sure from one year to the next which policies were enforced and which were not.

A great many people continue to argue the need for a ranger patrol in the park interior. Many campers complain about the noise along the Highway 60 corridor, particularly in the campgrounds.

Recommendation

1 There should be more surveillance of use in the interior of Algonquin Park.

2 Any Regulation that is issued as public policy should state a date of commencement. A period of grace and education should be built into the commencement date.

3 Visitor services personnel should function as park canoe rangers. Their function would be to give information to, advise interior users, to enforce Regulations and to assist interior maintenance crews.

4 Every effort should be made to curb noise from radios, stereos, trucks and motorcycles along the Highway 60 corridor, particularly in the campgrounds.

5 Chain saws should not be used by recreationists in Algonquin Park.



Canoe
Ranger

Minister's Response

1 *It is the intent of the Ministry of Natural Resources to increase surveillance in the interior with emphasis placed on information and education.*

2 *I agree with this recommendation in principle. Greater effort will be placed on informing client groups prior to actual arrival in the park.*

3 *Members of my staff in Algonquin Park District are now choosing and training park canoe rangers to fill the role of visitor services personnel. Their duties will be to give information and advice to interior users and to assist interior maintenance crews. Regulations can only be enforced by those staff with powers vested in them under the authority of The Provincial Parks Act.*

4 *My staff has made great strides recently in reducing noise in the park. This effort will be continued.*

5 *I agree with this recommendation. However, instead of solving this problem by Regulation my staff will endeavour to solve it through education.*

11 Firearms

Recommendation

1 The Parks Council agrees with the Ministry of Natural Resources that:
"Firearms may be transported through Algonquin Park via Highway 60 and must be unloaded and encased."

Minister's Response

1 *The basic problem was with the directive appearing in the master plan. It stated that: "Firearms transported through Algonquin must be sealed upon entry and the seal removed when leaving the park." The practice of sealing and unsealing of firearms was found to be a laborious task and unnecessary considering existing Regulations governing firearms in Algonquin Park. Therefore, this directive will reflect Council's recommendation: "Firearms may be transported through Algonquin Park via Highway 60 and must be unloaded and encased."*

12 Capital Development Projects

Background and Discussion

Many of the capital development projects detailed in the master plan have not yet been built. They include such projects as the Madawaska Motor Trail, Mowat Complex, paddle-in and hike-in campsites, and the redevelopment and expansion of existing campgrounds along Highway 60. The capital funds necessary to implement the total master plan have not been made available due to budget cuts caused by changing economic conditions.

Recommendation

1 Capital intensive projects should be costed out in 1980 dollars so that a meaningful attempt can be made at determining their value in light of available funds in the future.

2 Maintaining the physical plant should receive the highest financial priority.

3 Priorities should be established for capital intensive projects and a long term development scheme formulated.

4 The Madawaska Motor Trail should be eliminated and thought given to upgrading Highway 60 as a genuine Parkway. This highway was not designed as a Parkway originally.

Minister's Response

1 *This recommendation is accepted and a study has been initiated in this regard.*

2 *Within the context of the capital programme, emphasis is being placed on maintenance of existing facilities.*

3 *Priorities will be established for capital intensive projects and will be gradually worked into the yearly budgeting work plans as funds become available.*

4 *It is agreed that the development of the Madawaska Motor Trail is not feasible at this time. Members of my staff have completed a study outlining guidelines to upgrade the portion of Highway 60 inside the park to reflect its new designation as the Frank MacDougall Parkway. The Parkway will be implemented in consultation with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. With the deferment of construction for the proposed Madawaska Motor Trail, it is our intention that the current Museum at km 20 inside the park will remain the focal point of the visitor services programme.*

Perimeter Parks

Background and Discussion

It is stated in the master plan:

"The perimeter park programme is intended to scale down internal development so the character of Algonquin Park may be retained."

This directive was to be accomplished in two ways: externalizing further development and by redistributing use to the perimeter of the park. Twelve areas around Algonquin Park suitable for park development were identified in the master plan. The Regional Parks System Plan has taken into account the changing provincial demand and supply picture and has set targets for the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in the Provincial Parks System for the years 1991 to 2001. The result is that fewer perimeter parks are needed. About six areas, or one-half of the 1974 projections will be needed and, of these, three are already in existence as provincial parks.

The new targets can likely be met through the use of existing parks and park reserves. In the short-term, until 1991, demand on the west side can be accommodated by day-use and camping facilities at Chetwynd. The projected increased demand after 1991 may be accommodated along the Highway 60 corridor in Algonquin or elsewhere on the west side. Further, system planning studies during this master plan review period will determine the location of areas to accommodate east and southeast side demand. Immediate future demand will not require major new development at Basin or Stratton Lakes as suggested in the master plan.

Recommendation

1 The need for these developments should be re-evaluated at future master plan reviews.

Based on my Response to Recommendation 3.4 and the proposed development that was to take place along the Madawaska Motor Trail, I have asked my staff to prepare an expansion plan for the Museum. I anticipate that this expansion will be completed within a five-year period commencing in 1981.

5 I agree with this proposal in principle. It will be studied in relation to the nearly completed Regional Parks System Plan for Algonquin Region.

Minister's Response

1 The matter of the need and location of perimeter parks will be looked at in terms of the nearly completed Regional Parks System Plan for Algonquin Region.



Arrowhead
Provincial Park
Perimeter Park



Brent Perimeter
Access Point

14 Perimeter Access

Recommendation

1 The Parks Council agrees with the Ministry Of Natural Resources' statement that: "At the perimeter access points such as Kiosk, Achray (Sand Lake) and Brent, the existing car camping campsites will not be included in the interior quotas and campers will be levied regular car-camping fees."

2 The Parks Council recommends that limited one-night car-camping be allowed at the access points along the western boundary of the park.

Minister's Response

1 *This policy is currently in effect.*

2 *The Parks Council's recommendation is accepted in principle. However, at access points within Algonquin Park, camping facilities will be provided only for those visitors entering the park's interior who either arrive too late in the day to set out on a trip or find the daily quota full. A one-night maximum stay will be enforced.*

15 Fish Management

Recommendation

1 The Parks Council recommends that this section of the master plan be re-written to incorporate the new Fish Management Plan.

Minister's Response

1 *The Parks Council's recommendation is accepted. The Master Plan Implementation Strategy Report will reflect the needs as identified in a fisheries management plan for Algonquin Park.*

16 Wildlife Management

Background and Discussion

At the present time, there is a need for a Wildlife Management Plan for Algonquin Park. This plan should be developed immediately. Considerable expertise exists in the province that could be brought together to advise on such a plan. Regional and District timber, park and wildlife personnel and the Algonquin Forestry Authority should be consulted. Public input should also be sought.

Recommendation

1 A wildlife management policy should be developed and implemented as soon as possible.

17 Vegetation Management

Recommendation

1 The Parks Council agrees that where inappropriate non-native tree planting has occurred, these areas be identified and phased out using appropriate silvicultural prescriptions.

18 Fire Management

Recommendation

1 The Parks Council agrees with the Ministry's intention to develop a Fire Management Plan for all zones in Algonquin Park.

19 Consolidated Management Plan

Recommendation

1 The Park Superintendent should chair a steering committee that assures the evolution, co-ordination, and implementation of management plans for wildlife, fisheries, forestry, nature reserve and historical zones, and visitor services. All of these plans should be developed and implemented before the next five-year review.



White-tailed
Deer

Minister's Response

1 *Many wildlife management policies currently exist in the master plan. I have instructed my staff to consolidate and expand policies where necessary to derive a wildlife management plan for the park.*

Minister's Response

1 *The Parks Council's recommendation is accepted. A plan to implement this strategy over a number of years will be initiated.*

Minister's Response

1 *In support of the Parks Council's recommendation, an approach has been initiated to attain this.*

Minister's Response

1 *The co-ordination and implementation of management plans and policies is currently a responsibility of the Park Superintendent. Plans and policies for wildlife, fisheries, forestry, park zones and visitor services will be prepared and implementation begun before the next five-year review of the Algonquin Park Master Plan.*

Background and Discussion

Following a successful experiment in Quetico Provincial Park in 1977, a can and bottle ban was introduced in Algonquin Park effective April 1, 1978, to combat the growing problem of garbage in the park interior. The Quetico experiment showed that litter was reduced and subsequently the cost of garbage removal was lowered. Also, users felt the quality of the recreational experience was enhanced.

The ban applies everywhere in Algonquin Park except in organized campgrounds and picnic grounds where there is regular garbage collection. Under the ban, nonburnable, disposable eating utensils or food and beverage bottles are banned, but not containers like cups or pitchers that are specifically designed for repeated use. Metal foil is permitted as are containers of fuel, insect repellent, medicine or other items that are not food or beverage. There have been mixed reactions to the effectiveness of the can and bottle ban. Some say that the interior is much cleaner while others argue that people taking cans and bottles into the interior are afraid to bring them out in case they are caught, and therefore leave them there.

Although the public has mixed opinions on the success of the can and bottle ban, there seems to be ample evidence that the ban is an improvement and that as people become used to it, it will indeed prove to be an effective management practice.

Recommendation

- 1 The Parks Council agrees with the can and bottle ban.
- 2 The ban should be carefully promoted, enforced and monitored in the future.
- 3 Interior travellers should be encouraged to bring litter out of the park. This could involve the use of numbered litter bags and inspection of packs going into rather than coming out of the park.
- 4 The ban should apply to paddle-in campsites even if they are not in the interior of the park.



Can and Bottle
Ban Reduces
Garbage

Minister's Response

- 1 *I appreciate the Council's support in this regard.*
- 2 *It is our intention to continue to promote and monitor this policy.*
- 3 *For the past 11 years, interior travellers have been encouraged to bring litter out of the park. Through education and appropriate application of park Regulations, this will be continued. I am pleased to say that positive results of this approach are beginning to show.*
- 4 *I agree with this proposal since paddle-in campsites are to provide a visitor with a threshold experience to canoe tripping in the park's interior. As such, the visitor should learn how to adapt to the policies and Regulations governing the interior.*



Access Point
Quota Controls
Crowding

21

Access Point Quotas and Reservation System

Background and Discussion

Because of the steady increase in use of Algonquin Park's interior and subsequent problems of overcrowding on the canoe routes and hiking trails, the 1974 master plan directed that maximum daily interior access quotas be set. At each of Algonquin's 31 interior access points, quotas were placed on the number of watercraft to enter the interior each day under the authority of an interior camping permit.

Quotas were to be applied on the Victoria Day Weekend in May (Friday through Sunday) and from the last Friday in June through the first Sunday in September.

This policy was put into effect in 1976, but has since been amended to apply to the number of parties (maximum of nine individuals per party) rather than to the number of canoes.

To assist vacation trip planning, an interior camping permit reservation system was introduced in 1978. Fifty percent of each access point quota is reservable in advance. The rest is available on a first-come first-served basis.

The Parks Council basically agrees with this policy, but feels that it should be extended so that the party size of nine applies at all times. At present, the policy does not prevent a party of more than nine travelling or stopping together. It just prevents a larger party from actually camping together.

The quota for each access point mentioned earlier appears in the park Regulations. Ministry staff feel that quota numbers in the Regulations deny the Park Superintendent flexibility to manage the park interior properly. For example, if, beyond an access point, a number of campsites require rehabilitation, the Superintendent should be allowed to close those sites and lower the quota. Ministry staff also suggest that since the quota system has been applied to reflect the capacity of the park's interior, quotas should apply for the whole operating season, not just part of it.

Recommendation

1 The actual access point quota numbers should be removed from Regulations allowing the Park Superintendent more discretion in the management and adjustment of them.

2 There should be a differentiation between paddle-in campers and interior travellers in the quota and reservation system.

3 A clearer determination of capacity and related quotas needs to be made in the park.

4 There is a need for more full time administration of remote access points, particularly for the issuance of permits.

5 A better information system with regard to the availability of remaining entrance capability for access points needs to be developed.

6 The party size should not exceed 12 people and four craft regardless of whether they are travelling or camping.

In Favour - 6
Opposed - 1
Absentions - 2

7 Some exceptions to party size should be investigated for the possibility of paddle-in group campgrounds.

Minister's Response

1 *I accept the Parks Council's recommendation.*

2 *This recommendation will be followed once paddle-in campgrounds are established.*

3 *A programme to determine interior camping capacity and related quotas is currently underway.*

4 *I accept this recommendation in principle. However, implementation will depend upon available funding. My staff will be investigating alternative methods of making permits available.*

5 *My staff will continue to investigate the most appropriate means of making access point quota information available to the public.*

6 *In the view of my Ministry, camping parties of more than nine individuals can lead to unacceptable deterioration of interior campsites. Therefore, this recommendation is not accepted.*

7 *I agree in principle with this recommendation and will ensure that my staff consider the development of group campsites in the park interior.*

22 Hiking Trail in the Northeast Sector of the Park

Background and Discussion

A number of people have expressed a desire for a trail in the northeastern sector of the park.

At present, there are two hiking trails, the Western Uplands Hiking Trail (69 km) and the Highland Hiking Trail (36 km) plus nine interpretive trails, all located along the Highway 60 corridor.

Recommendation

1 The Ministry of Natural Resources should produce a plan for a trail system in the park. New trails should be developed to implement such a plan.

23 Special Considerations to Some Camps

Background and Discussion

Some youth camps located outside of Algonquin Park have been given special consideration by the Ministry to use Algonquin's interior free of charge. Such consideration is extended only to provincially funded camps for under-privileged children. Groups such as Boy Scouts and Girl Guides do not qualify. However, they do qualify for the reduced interior fee during the operating season with the exception of July and August.



Hiking
Trail

Minister's Response

1 *The provision of hiking trails in a park such as Algonquin is important. A plan as suggested will identify the need, types and proposed location of trails as well as staffing and funding requirements. The plan will be prepared prior to the next five-year review in 1984.*

The Parks Council considered this issue in 1976 and recommended that the Ministry undertake a more detailed examination of the use of Algonquin Park by non-profit organizations to establish the feasibility of the following alternatives:

- a** preferential fee over the 12-month period;
- b** designated routes with larger campsites for use by organized groups, and;
- c** a system of dispensation of the Regulations for organized groups. This may have to be accompanied by a form of licencing either for trip leaders or the organization. It may also entail campsites designated for use only by those groups and the limiting of groups to particular routes where campsites are provided for the designated party size.

Stress should be placed on the importance of the Superintendent's discretion in managing such a programme. The extent to which groups could take advantage of this special consideration would be dependent on demand for interior access at a given place and a given time.

Recommendation

1 The fee should be reduced to half the normal rate for a youth group in which members are residents of Canada and are sponsored by a non-profit, religious, charitable or other philanthropic organization or an educational organization participating in school-approved outdoor education programmes up to and including the Grade 13 level.

24

Park Fees

Background and Discussion

The present system of fee collection seems unduly cumbersome and inequitable. The Parks Council suggests a system that would be much cheaper to administer, would have all users of Algonquin paying equally, and would prevent the abuse that is currently being made by people who say, "I'm just travelling through." The proposed system would eliminate the need to collect fees for interior travel permits and for campsite permits.



Algonquin
Experience
Youth Camp

Minister's Response

1 *The existing policy of reduced rates for such groups will be extended to include the July and August period. The extent to which groups can take advantage of this special consideration will be at the discretion of the Park Superintendent.*



Interior
Campsite

The Parks Council recommends that all visitors to Algonquin Park should pay a per head fee. Children under 12 should be admitted free. Every party entering the park, be they interior travellers, highway campers or day-users, should receive a ticket at the gate that states the date and time of arrival and the number of persons 12 years of age or older. Upon leaving the park, this ticket would be re-submitted to a gate or access point attendant. A fee would then be levied on the number of hours or days that the party had been inside Algonquin Park.

Recommendation

1 The Parks Council recommends that everyone over 12 using the park should pay the same fee.

Minister's Response

1 *I have instructed my staff to consider this proposal in the next review of provincial park fees.*

25 Identification of Interior Campsites

Recommendation

1 The Parks Council agrees with the Ministry of Natural Resources that "campsites should be identified by simple, but appropriate signage. A sign depicting the international symbol and colour (orange) other than that used to identify portages (yellow) should be used."

Minister's Response

1 *The use of special campsite and portage signs was initiated in Algonquin Park in 1979.*

Background and Discussion

Several people using the interior of Algonquin are concerned with the lack of canoeing competence of some canoeists.

In recent summers, the Ontario Safety League has been offering canoe skill and safety courses in the park on a regular basis. The Ministry plans to upgrade the recreational skills portion of the visitor services programme throughout Ontario to help improve the canoeing skills of visitors to our parks. It is realized by Ministry staff that more attention should be given by the visitor services programme to interior users.

Algonquin is becoming more and more a canoe country for novice canoeists. Canoe centre staff which assisted novice canoeists has actually been reduced in recent years. It is imperative that these centres not only continue but extend their role related to canoe safety. A ranger patrol system continues to be strongly advocated by many. Such a patrol system could work out of the canoe centres and assist in the instruction of people needing additional skills.

Some have recommended that canoeists be certified as competent before being allowed to use the interior.

Recommendation

1 The Parks Council rejects the concept of certification, but feels that the canoe centres and their services should be upgraded and their mandate expanded. For example, help should be made available to trippers who may be lacking in qualifications.

2 Canoe route maps should indicate the difficulty of particular routes.

3 A ranger patrol system to assist interior users and help in the enforcement of Regulations in the interior should be introduced.

4 The ranger patrol system or some alternative to instruct people wishing to use the interior should be developed.



Novice
Canoeists

Minister's Response

1 *The existing canoe centres and visitor services staff as well as the Ontario Safety League provide instruction in canoe safety and canoe tripping. However, some interior users need help, but will not ask or accept it. Further consideration will be given by my staff to new means of educating these visitors in canoe safety.*

2 *I feel that the existing canoe route map well fulfills its intended function of providing information on the park's entire canoe route network. The Parks Council's recommendation identifies a need to indicate the difficulty of canoe routes in the park. The only degree of difficulty lies in the length and number of portages. This information already exists on the canoe route map.*

At present, my staff is considering ways to interpret a specific site's historical and natural significance in the park's interior with the use of the canoe route map.

3 *This recommendation is accepted.*

4 *This recommendation is accepted.*

The Economic Impact of the Master Plan on Communities Surrounding the Park

Background and Discussion

The Parks Council has had impressed upon it by some people that the master plan and the government policy to contract both garbage collection and the sale of firewood, have caused economic hardship to tourist communities such as Whitney. They feel that the master plan has turned away anglers through the restriction of outboard motors. It is their opinion that more people from Whitney could be hired as seasonal staff if garbage collection and firewood were not contracted to the private sector.

The attendance in the park was down during the 1978 season. Figures show a decrease in interior use of 15 percent from 1977 and a 12 percent decrease in Highway 60 campers. However, it is interesting to note that figures from across the entire province show a decline of about 11 percent in attendance at provincial parks. This was to be expected, as traditionally provincial parks experience a decline in attendance during the first year of a province-wide fee increase. There would appear to be no justification for suggesting the decrease in park use is a result of the park master plan. Figures for 1979 show a definite increase in use.

There is no doubt that some people did not come to the park during the 1978 season because of new motorboat Regulations. However, any reduction was probably balanced by the number of people who may have been attracted to the park because of the new Regulations.

Recent attempts to "hold the line" on government spending and a government trend to the use of private enterprise to achieve programme ends have resulted in contracting out some services previously performed by seasonal staff. This has resulted in a reduction of staff working directly for the Ministry of Natural Resources in Algonquin Park, but it also created work opportunities for private entrepreneurs and companies.

Recommendation

1 The Ministry of Natural Resources should consider the use of local people as a criterion in the evaluation of bids for tendered services.



Neighbouring
Community

Minister's Response

1 *The employment of local people will continue to be a factor when evaluating bids for tendered services.*

Additional Concessions

Background and Discussion

It is stated in the master plan that: "Additional concession facilities may be established to service day and interior camping canoeists at a number of access points such as Smoke Lake or Rock Lake." Ministry staff feel that this directive should be reassessed in view of complaints raised by outfitters located outside the park. The outfitters feel that they are now competing against unfair odds with concessions at Canoe and Opeongo Lakes.

The existing concession building located at Opeongo Lake is temporary. It is stated in the plan that this access point needs re-development and new facilities.

Recommendation

- 1 No new concessions should be established in the park to provide services for day and interior camping canoeists.
- 2 The existing level of service offered at Opeongo Lake is adequate and any re-development should reflect this basic level of service.
- 3 If Ministry of Natural Resources money is unavailable for Opeongo redevelopment, the concessionaire should be given an opportunity to bid on an upgrading of the facility himself. Such a private re-development would require a longer term contract so that the concessionaire could amortize his capital expenditure.
- 4 If the re-development of the Opeongo site is deemed undesirable, thought should be given to the relocation of the site as an alternative.

2 Brochures advertising facilities outside the park are currently displayed at the Algonquin Park Information Centre. Brochures will also be available at both the East and West Gates commencing in 1980.

3 I agree with this proposal in principle. Such a programme will be reviewed with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications in conjunction with the Parkway corridor signage project. This project is now in its preliminary stage.

Minister's Response

- 1 Accepted.
- 2 Accepted.
- 3 This recommendation is not accepted. I believe that my Ministry should maintain full control of the development and ownership of park facilities.
- 4 The existing site on Lake Opeongo is considered the most appropriate for an outfitting concession at this time.



Opeongo Lake
Concession

29 Leases

Background and Discussion

The Algonquin Park Master Plan contained policies dealing with leases and private holdings in the park. These policies continued the direction provided by the original government policy of 1954 concerning land occupation in Algonquin Park. In general, private holdings were to be acquired where possible and lessees were to be allowed to remain until the expiry of their leases.

During the summer of 1978, a change was introduced by the government concerning leases in Rondeau and Algonquin Parks. The new policy states that:

1 "All cottage leases in Algonquin and Rondeau Provincial Parks be allowed to opt for a plan under which the lessee would be permitted to retain his or her lease privileges until the death of the lessee (or surviving spouse) or 1996, whichever comes first; this plan would apply only to a lessee of record on a specified date."



Cottage
Cache Lake

2 "In return for joining the plan the lessee agrees as follows:

- a** not to transfer his or her lease interests except to a surviving spouse;
- b** market value land rent to become effective from the date of entering the plan;
- c** the plan will not apply to leases on which no improvements have been erected;
- d** leasehold improvements will have no real estate value beyond the normal expiry date of their present lease or the death of the surviving spouse whichever comes first;
- e** leaseholders will be given one year to decide on joining the plan from the date of notification, for those opting to continue with the existing lease, all current policy and Regulations will apply."

The date recorded for a registered leaseholder has been established as August 16, 1978.

Although many arguments were given for the indefinite continuation of the cottage leases in Algonquin Park, the Parks Council felt that approval of such a policy would prevent the future realization of long range goals for the park. There is at the present time, and there will continue to be in the future, a tremendous demand for a substantial increase in paddle-in campsites. Many of the cottages are on prime potential sites for this use.

The government has also introduced changes in the youth camp, commercial lodge and fishing camp lease agreements. New youth camp lease terms will expire December 31, 1996, with a renewal term of 21 years plus a further right of renewal dependent on prevailing government policy at that time; and new commercial lodge and fishing camp leases will expire December 31, 1996, with no further rights of renewal. Current lessees have the opportunity to surrender their present leases in return for new leases subject to the foregoing conditions.

Lodges have tenure only until 1996.

The Parks Council generally agrees that there will be a need for lodges in the future. However, certain activities offered at the lodges seem inappropriate for the park.

Recommendation

1 The Parks Council agrees with government policy affecting cottage leaseholders.

In Favour - 6
Opposed - 2

2 The Parks Council agrees with government policy on leases as it affects youth camps and fishing camp lease agreements.

3 The Parks Council agrees that lodges should be allowed to remain in the park. However, it is felt that there will be a need for more control over management and the type of programmes offered in the future and that more revenue should be directed to the government from these private sources.



Arowhon Pines
Lodge

Minister's Response

1 *I appreciate the Parks Council's support for this Ministry's new policy governing cottage leases.*

2 *I believe that youth camps do provide facilities and opportunities to enjoy and understand the beauty of such a significant park as Algonquin, not only for Canadian youth, but also for young people from other countries. I appreciate the Parks Council's support.*

3 *My staff have reviewed the role of lodges in Algonquin Park. It is recognized that the lodges provide a necessary facility in the park and that they are known world-wide. Existing commercial lodges will be offered new leases that will run to 1996 with a further right of renewal for a period of time that has yet to be decided. The terms of the new leases will provide for the necessary management control over the operations and also ensure adequate economic return to the Crown. In addition, I have directed my staff to carry out a study to determine the future role of lodging facilities in Algonquin Park and to recommend whether there should be any other types of accommodation facilities in the park and the means by which these services might be provided.*



Fish
Stocking

30

Research Facilities

Recommendation

1 Council agrees that both the Harkness Fish Laboratory and Wildlife Research Station should continue to function as they now do. The Museum should remain in its present location.

2 Both the Fish Laboratory and the Research Station are in need of upgrading.

3 The Museum should be totally renovated. It should become much more of a "living" museum or centre with constantly changing displays. A "Centre for the Arts" where works could be exhibited on themes relevant to Algonquin should exist.

Minister's Response

1 *These facilities will remain. I have also asked my staff to determine what the role of research is in the park and to prepare a research plan in the near future.*

2 *Upgrading of these facilities will proceed when funding is available.*

3 *An expansion and revitalization programme for the Museum is being prepared by my staff.*



Recreational Use
Clyde and Bruton
Townships

Clyde and Bruton Townships

Background and Discussion

The Parks Council does not agree with the Ministry of Natural Resources' proposal that Bruton and Clyde Townships, south of the hydro line, be excluded from the park.

Recommendation

- 1 The Parks Council recommends that these areas should remain in the park.
- 2 Snowmobiling should be allowed to continue along the hydro line in Clyde Township.
- 3 The snowmobile trail should be removed from the deer yard in the southern part of Bruton Township.
- 4 Hunting should be allowed to continue in Bruton and Clyde Townships until the whole question of hunting in provincial parks is resolved.
- 5 Right of first refusal should be acquired on the patent land around Kingscote Lake to provide the Ministry of Natural Resources an opportunity to acquire these properties should they become available.
- 6 An access point to the Galipos-Wildcat area should be developed.

Minister's Response

- 1 *Accepted.*
- 2 *Accepted.*
- 3 *The possibility of relocating the snowmobile trail outside the deer yard has been fully investigated. It is not feasible at this time.*
- 4 *I accept this recommendation and have asked my staff to review the administration of hunt camps and hunting in Clyde and Bruton Townships.*
- 5 *I agree with this approach in principle and have asked my staff to study this recommendation. I have also added the patented properties located on Cauliflower Lake in Clyde Township to the list.*
- 6 *Once the McRae property addition, identified in the 1974 master plan is included within the park's boundary, a feasibility study to locate an access point will be conducted by my staff. This study will be included in the Five-Year Implementation Strategy for the Algonquin Park Master Plan.*



Algonquin Park
Museum

32 Renfrew Hydro Electrical Dam Proposal

Background and Discussion

The master plan states: "Sources of pollution and the tapping of park water for external uses are controlled and limited." The master plan also states: "Low dams may be constructed or reconstructed for recreational purposes only . . . all dams are designed to complement resource values as much as possible."

The Renfrew Hydro Commission would like to dam Robitaille Lake for the purpose of supplying a better flow of water downstream. Such a development would flood much of the shoreline on a canoe route and damage an excellent lake trout fishery. It is also known that any additional power needed is available from Ontario Hydro.

Recommendation

1 The Parks Council recommends the rejection of the proposal by the Renfrew Hydro Commission to dam Robitaille Lake for a better flow of water downstream.

33 Amable Du Fond River

Background and Discussion

It has been suggested that more land should be acquired in Ballantyne Township to protect the headwaters of the Amable Du Fond River in the northwestern sector of the park.

Recommendation

1 The Parks Council agrees that the headwaters should be protected, but it is of the opinion that this can be done adequately through effective land use planning by the Lands and Waters Group of the Ministry of Natural Resources.



Lake Shoreline

Minister's Response

1 Accepted.

Minister's Response

1 *Considering the cost and the number of private properties to be acquired, I agree with the Parks Council's recommendation.*

Winter Recreation Survey

Background and Discussion

A number of people identified the need for a study of winter recreation for the park. It is noted that groomed trails will be provided for cross-country skiing in the winter of 1979-1980.

The Parks Council agrees that a study should be done and that the study should consider the desirability of lodge facilities being open on a year-round basis.

Recommendation

1 A study of winter recreation in Algonquin Park should be carried out.

Algonquin Park's Control of Its Own Destiny

Background and Discussion

Many people have expressed the fact that so much of what happens in Algonquin Park seems to be beyond the control of the Ministry.

For example, final approval of the fisheries matter rests with the Federal government, Highway 60 is controlled by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and it is beyond the park authority to do anything about acid rain.

Recommendation

1 The Parks Council recommends that these types of problems should be addressed in a much needed redrafting of The Provincial Parks Act.

Minister's Response

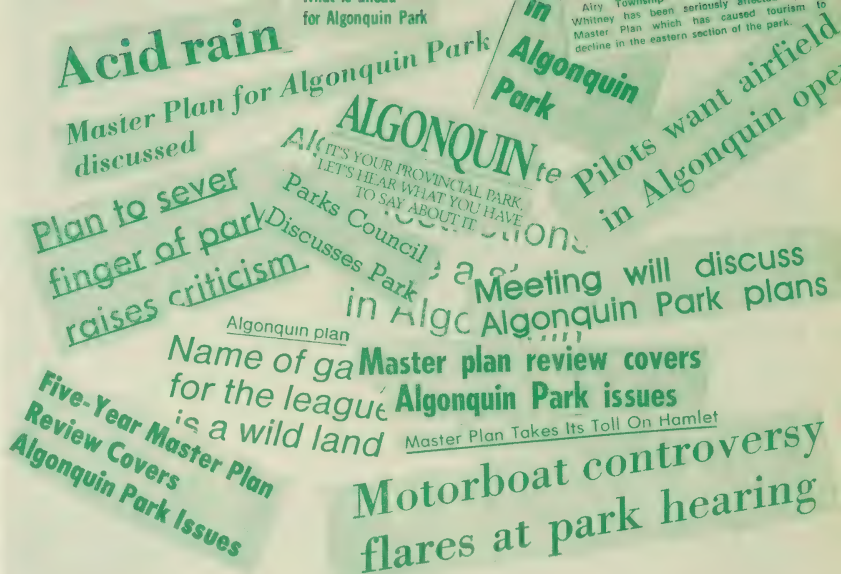
1 *With the Ministry's initiative to promote tourism in Ontario, such a study is important and will be included in the Five-Year Implementation Strategy for the Algonquin Park Master Plan.*

Minister's Response

1 *I do not believe a redrafting of The Provincial Parks Act will solve the problems the Council mentioned. Only effective communication between government bodies which we are endeavouring to bring about will help solve these problems.*



Cross-Country
Skiing



Appendix A

Public Involvement
1979

Submissions to the Parks Council

- 1 Algonquin Wildlands League
- 2 Outdoors Niagara, K. Lounsbury
- 3 "The Living Wilderness"
- 4 Wellington Street Sportsmen's Club
- 5 J.F. McLean, Glencoe
- 6 J.W. Gammon, Windsor
- 7 G. Paison, Windsor
- 8 Rhine Daube Sportsmen, L.W. Dupont
- 9 W. Atherton, Windsor
- 10 Messrs. Len, Williams, Thomson
- 11 G.E. Clonton
- 12 W.S. Elliott, Welland
- 13 D.G. Edward, Brampton
- 14 R. Robinson, Mitchell
- 15 Meadow Run Game Club
- 16 N. Watters, Toronto
- 17 J.D. Hutchinson, Mississauga
- 18 G. Krull, Toronto
- 19 Mrs. R. Trimble, Scarborough
- 20 Sydenham Sportsmen's Association, J. Ford
- 21 A. Quinn, Toronto
- 22 J. Puhl, Toronto
- 23 G. Chambers, London
- 24 M.J. Morgan, Cavan
- 25 Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, R. Morgan
- 26 A.J. Collins, Toronto
- 27 E. Miglin, Portage and Opeongo Stores
- 28 B. Maynard, Huntsville
- 29 C. Graham, Whitby
- 30 A.W. Walsh, Toronto
- 31 C. Jeffs, Limehouse
- 32 E.B. Foster, Peterborough
- 33 Sierra Club of Ontario, Toronto
- 34 V. Nordin, Toronto
- 35 J.R. Conway, Merrickville
- 36 K. Everingham, Mississauga
- 37 R.J. Frost, Toronto
- 38 G. Dell, Willowdale
- 39 L.A. Manning, Oshawa
- 40 S. Goulter, Bolton
- 41 R. Geertz, Don Mills
- 42 R.D. Speers, Goderich
- 43 D. Van Vliet, Brampton
- 44 W.S. Robinson, Port Carling
- 45 National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada, C. Woodley
- 46 E.F. Gibson, Oshawa
- 47 J. Vance, Bancroft
- 48 G. Hodgson
- 49 D.E. Drewry, Bancroft
- 50 The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, R. Bates
- 51 Canadian Institute of Forestry, Algonquin Section
- 52 G. Dell, Willowdale
- 53 P.M. Mandryk, St. Laurent, Quebec
- 54 A. Campbell, Uranium City, Saskatchewan
- 55 M.R. Patterson, Buffalo, New York
- 56 G.F. Ward, Belleville
- 57 L. Scheuneman, Pembroke
- 58 G.H. Griffin, Westbank, B.C.

ALGONQUIN WILDLANDS LEAGUE

RD 114
RAIL STATION Q
TORONTO ONTARIO M4T 2L7
EL: (416) 962-8305



THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF ONTARIO

ALGONQUIN PARK
Cache Lake, Ontario



OFFICIAL PROVINCIAL AFFILIATE OF THE CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION

**The Ontario Federation of
ANGLERS & HUNTERS**



Lodge

National and
Provincial Parks
Association of
Canada

L'association
des parcs nationaux
et provinciaux du
Canada

Section Ottawa/Hull Chapter
P.O. Box 400, Station A
Ottawa, Canada K1N 6Y4



Sydenham Sportsmen's Association
INCORPORATED
P.O. BOX 264 - OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO

STIKEMAN, ELLIOTT, ROBERTS & BOWMAN
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS



ONTARIO FOREST INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION



Sierra Club of Ontario
47 Colborne Street Toronto Ontario M5E 1E3 Telephone 366-3494

Lar Point Camps - - Kearney and Algonquin
(Ralph and Edna Bice) Park



PORTAGE & OPEONGO STORES

"Wilderness Outfitters"

Portage Store
Algonquin Park
Ontario P0A 1B0
705-633-5622

Some Interest
Group Submissions

- 59 B. Honey, Barrie
- 60 D. McNicholl, Ottawa
- 61 I.A. Roy, Ottawa
- 62 G.E. Findlay, Carleton Place
- 63 Algonquin Forestry Authority
- 64 E.B. Gravelle, Smith Falls
- 65 Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association, L. Bruyere
- 66 N. Munro, Ottawa
- 67 J.M. Armour, Bridenorth
- 68 Canadian Nature Federation, R. Pratt
- 69 Conservation Council of Ontario, F. Helleiner
- 70 Algonquin Park Canoe Outfitters, E. Miglin
- 71 D. Drewry, Bancroft
- 72 R.J. Hatkoski, Dwight
- 73 D. Fillmore, Toronto
- 74 Algonquin Wildlands League
- 75 R.H. Barrigar, Ottawa
- 76 M.J. O'Grady, Ottawa
- 77 D.J.M. Brown, Toronto
- 78 E. James Arnett, Toronto
- 79 F.J. Holmes, Ottawa
- 80 Poplar Point Camps, R. Bice, Kearney
- 81 H. Coit, Hamilton
- 82 D. Konrad, Ottawa
- 83 W.L. Richardson, Toronto
- 84 D.E. Code, Ottawa
- 85 T. Hardingham, Toronto
- 86 L. Wayne Morgan, Downsview
- 87 D. McClymont, Ottawa

- 88 K. Stone, Hamilton
- 89 Bartlett Lodge, G. Daw, Cache Lake
- 90 D.C. Kennaley, St. George
- 91 D.W. Fosbury, Acton
- 92 R. Martindale, Pickering
- 93 C. Moore, Guelph
- 94 L.W. Burgess, Toledo, Ohio
- 95 M. Jarvis, Ottawa
- 96 D. Hutchinson, London
- 97 Wm. P. Schierd, Orchard Park, New York
- 98 R.V. Cleary, Royal Oak, Michigan
- 99 J. Albright, Mattawa
- 100 J. Welch, Toronto
- 101 W. Lennips, Bradford
- 102 J. Bruce Falls, Toronto
- 103 P. Grisdale, Medford, New Jersey
- 104 Ontario Forest Industries Association, Toronto
- 105 Municipality of Dysart et al, M.G. Fearley
- 106 Conservation Council of Ontario, A.M. Timms
- 107 J. Nielson, Oakville
- 108 W.L. Gould, Smith Falls
- 109 Killarney Lodge, Algonquin Park
- 110 John Marsh, Trent University, Peterborough
- 111 Tom Shelley, Sprucedale
- 112 Harley Park, Tilden Lake, Ontario
- 113 John E. Hancock, Huntsville
- 114 S. Leather, Windsor
- 115 H.N. Gleadow, Utterson
- 116 Wm. J. Crins, Mississauga

- 117 T.C. Hutchinson, University of Toronto
- 118 Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Peterborough
- 119 R.H. le Riche, Ottawa
- 120 R. Beattie, Baie D'Urfe, Quebec
- 121 L. McDougall, Belleville
- 122 North Bay Hunters' and Anglers Association Inc., A.J. Desormeau
- 123 Portage and Opeongo Stores, E. Miglin
- 124 Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, T. Casey
- 125 Haliburton County Economic Development Commission, R.G. Hodgson
- 126 Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, Port Sydney
- 127 The Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Don Mills
- 128 Ontario Professional Foresters Association
- 129 Whitney Chamber of Commerce, K. Fox
- 130 Camp Arowhon, Huntsville
- 131 M.A. Jeffery, Rock Lake, Algonquin Park
- 132 Lorna E. Daw, Cache Lake
- 133 J. Hagerman
- 134 S.J. Allin, Algonquin Park
- 135 Algonquin Park Leaseholders' Association
- 136 E.H. Kase, Jr., Huntsville
- 137 J. Van Baal
- 138 H.N. Archibald, Uxbridge
- 139 Pembroke Outdoor Sportsmen's Club, D. Handke
- 140 Sierra Club of Ontario, Toronto
- 141 G. Henderson, Toronto
- 142 J.C. Morris, King City
- 143 P.R. Dekar, Hamilton
- 144 Poplar Point Camps, R. Bice, Kearney
- 145 R. Homan, Dewitt, New York
- 146 P.F. Hall, Toronto
- 147 G.A. Hollingshead, University of Alberta
- 148 G.R. Fanalli, Hamilton



Algonquin for
Future Generations

- 149 D.A. Minden, Astorville
- 150 B.L. Jones, Ottawa
- 151 D. Heap, Toronto
- 152 U. Del-Zotto, Weston
- 153 H.S. Himal, Montreal
- 154 D. Drewry, Bancroft
- 155 C.W.S. Gard, Ottawa
- 156 Barrie District Hunters and Anglers Conservation Club
- 157 District Municipality of Muskoka, R. List
- 158 D.A. Yule, Toronto
- 159 J. Ridpath, York University, Toronto
- 160 D.L. Lloyd, Willowdale
- 161 Ontario Camping Association
- 162 I.M. MacKay, Toronto
- 163 R. McRae, Whitney
- 164 F. McHardy-Smith, London
- 165 Canoe Ontario, Toronto
- 166 Renfrew Hydro Electrical Commission, Renfrew
- 167 International Snowmobile Industry



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Hon. James A. C. Auld
Minister
Dr. J. K. Reynolds
Deputy Minister



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